

Minutes of the Public Works Committee - August 22, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Herro.

Present: Chair Ken Herro, County Board Supervisors Joe Marchese, Fritz Ruf, David Swan and Peter Wolff (arrived at 8:55 a.m.); Absent: Jeff Morris and Karl Nilson

Staff Present: County Board Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Minutes recorded by Sandi Meisenheimer of County Board Office

Also Present: Hazardous Materials Coordinator Leslie Williams, Public Works Director Rich Bolte, Building Operations Manager Mark Keckeisen, Building Operations Supervisor Scott Miller

Public Present: Michael & Jill Lund of Pewaukee; Everett & Shirley Larsen of Pewaukee

Read Correspondence

Article dated 8-18-06 from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel entitled, "Recycling coal for a runway - Fly ash from power plants used for paving."

Future Agenda Items

1. Herro said there are 60 beds open at Huber. Why aren't there programs that are decreasing the jail population? We should be pushing for alternatives and not just locking people up.
2. Esler advised that he and Director Bolte continue to meet with the Regional Director on the west Waukesha by-pass. The meeting for this month has been cancelled and rescheduled for late next month.
3. Esler said he is also involved with the study of UW-Waukesha. He will be attending the Technical College meeting tonight as they are approving a contract for the printing technology center. How does this involve Public Works and UW-W? A recent newspaper article mentioned construction of a building at UW-W. Esler said this is premature and not likely to occur.
4. Herro suggested having the next meeting on September 7 at UW-Waukesha.

Approve Bids for the North Prairie Substation Salt Shed

Williams and Miller were present for approval of the bids. Motion: Swan moved, second by Ruf, to approve the base bid from the Grunau Company for the North Prairie Substation Salt Shed in the amount of \$13,400.

Williams distributed the bid tabulations and the recommendation by the consultant (Tom Lamb of the SIGMA Group). Marchese asked what is being done? Williams replied that the work involves putting in a high level alarm with associated electrical work in the brine tank that collects the runoff. This will allow better monitoring to determine when the brine tank is full and ready to be pumped out. Also, the concrete pad around the salt dome will have all of the seams resealed. To Herro's question about work for the county, Williams said Grunau has done a lot of work at the Fleet Maintenance facility. **Motion carried 4 – 0.**

Public Comment

Everett Larsen said they live on CTH SS, and there isn't another street in Pewaukee that has this kind of a speed limit. They would like to see it reduced to 45 or 35 mph. Because it is at 55 mph, it is never patrolled and therefore ends up being beyond that.

Michael Lund stated he is concerned that the speed limit has not been looked at in years. There are new subdivisions on SS and it's 55 mph right in peoples' backyards. There are a lot of children that cross the highway on the way to the Pewaukee schools from the Deerhaven Subdivision on the south of SS. People are driving 65 to 70 mph most of the time. There also are a lot of deer going back and forth.

Shirley Larsen said there are a lot more cars coming out of WCTC which used to go out the other way. There also are a lot of deer in the area. Last year they had nine deer in their backyard at one time which had come across SS.

Consider Proposed Ordinance: 161-O-037 Establishment of Speed Zone – CTH SS – City of Pewaukee and Village of Pewaukee, Forty-Five Miles Per Hour

Motion: Ruf moved, second by Marchese, to approve Ordinance 161-O-037.

Ruf said he was a resident of Pewaukee when the road was built and at the time WCTC was pretty small. Also, the subdivisions in the area (Christian Court / Deerhaven / Steeplechase) were not developed when the road was constructed. There also was no “on” ramp to I-94 going westbound or “off” ramp from Highway 16 to WCTC so the amount of traffic has increased almost geometrically. The pedestrian traffic, which includes children and senior citizens, has also increased dramatically.

Ruf said he drives it at 45 mph because it doesn’t feel safe at a higher speed. Also, both chiefs support lowering the speed limit.

Marchese said he is concerned that a lower speed limit will result in a speed trap. Ruf said he has been assured by the Chief of Police of the City and Village of Pewaukee that they will not do that.

Swan said he would support 45 mph. It is a straight road and engineered for 55 but a lot of subdivisions have been added and WCTC has grown in size.

Bolte said the police cannot be everywhere, and they will not enforce unrealistically low speed limits. He and the department attempt, to the greatest extent possible, to set speed limits which receive voluntary compliance. They do speed studies to see how fast people are driving on a road before they support or oppose these kinds of ordinances. Everyone wants traffic to be slower in front of his or her house.

Herro suggested reducing the speed to 50 mph to see if people will respect a 5 mph reduction. Marchese moved to amend the motion to reduce the speed limit to 50 mph. Bolte said it is the only road in the City of Pewaukee that was built and constructed with a design speed. It was designed to handle people driving at that speed. Ruf said he doesn’t dispute that but there has been a tremendous amount of residential growth on that road which there isn’t on other roads.

Public Comment

Everett Larsen said reducing the speed to 50 mph is not accomplishing one solid thing.

Jill Lund stated she doesn’t care about getting a ticket. If people break the law, they should get a ticket. That is not the issue. The issue is about safety and is why they are here today.

The motion by Marchese failed due to lack of a second.

P.Wolff arrived at the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

On the original motion, the motion carried 3 – 2; Herro and Marchese voting no.

Motion to adjourn: Swan moved, second by Marchese, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 a.m. Motion carried at 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe C. Marchese
Secretary